a housing having the electrical contacts connected thereto, the housing comprising at least two vertically offset electrical plug receiving areas, wherein the signal contacts extend into the receiving areas in a universal serial bus (USB) electrical conductor location configuration, and wherein the power contacts extend into the receiving areas on respective sides of the receiving areas that are opposite the signal contacts in each receiving area.

11. (Amended) A universal serial bus (USB) electrical connector comprising:

a housing forming a plurality of USB plug receiving areas;

electrical signal contacts connected to the housing, and extending into the receiving areas, arranged for operably electrically connecting to the USB plugs inserted into the USB plug receiving areas; and

electrical power contacts connected to the housing and extending into the receiving areas on respective sides of the receiving areas opposite the signal contacts in each receiving areas, wherein the housing has a section between two of the receiving areas, and wherein the power contacts extend from the section in opposite directions into the two receiving areas.

14. (Amended) A universal serial bus electrical connector as in claim 11 wherein the signal and power contacts extending into a first one of the receiving areas are arranged as a

substantially mirror image of the signal and power contacts extending into a second one of the receiving areas.

18. (Amended) An electrical connector comprising:

a housing having two plug receiving areas vertically offset relative to each other; and

electrical contacts connected to the housing and extending into the two plug receiving areas, the contacts comprising signal contacts and power contacts,

wherein the power contacts extend into the two receiving areas and the signal contacts extend into the two receiving areas, and wherein the signal and power contacts in a first one of the receiving areas are arranged in an array with the signal contacts on sides of each receiving area that are opposite the power contacts in the first receiving area, the array being substantially a mirror image of the signal and power contacts in a second one of the receiving areas.

29. (Amended) An electrical connector comprising:

a housing having at least one plug receiving area; and

electrical contacts connected to the housing, the contacts comprising signal contacts and power contacts,

wherein the at least one plug receiving area comprises:

a first receiving area section sized and shaped to receive a first electrical plug having a signal contact supporting deck and a power contact section

vertically offset from the signal contact supporting deck; and

a second receiving area section sized and shaped to receive a second electrical plug having a signal contact supporting deck and a power contact section vertically offset from the signal contact supporting deck,

and wherein at least one of the first and second receiving area sections is sized and shaped to alternatively receive a third electrical plug having a signal contact supporting deck, but not having a power contact section.

REMARKS

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121 (as amended on 11/7/2000) the rewritten claim(s) above are shown on separate page(s), in the attached Appendix, marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of that claim.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action the examiner rejected claim 34 as being anticipated by Wu (US 6,027,375). The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection.

Claim 34 recites that the signal conductors are attached to a first side of the deck (singular) and that the power conductors are attached to an opposite second side of the same deck. Wu discloses two separate and spaced projections 93, 98. Nowhere in Wu are the two projections disclosed as being